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**Derrylyn Gorski
First Selectman
Town of Bethany
Public Hearing Testimony
Planning & Development Committee
February 24, 2014**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the need to provide towns with mandate relief.

**I support SB-40 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLICATION OF MUNICIPAL
LEGAL NOTICES IN NEWSPAPERS**

Publishing legal notices in newspapers cost the Town of Bethany \$20,500 in FY12 and we have no idea how many residents actually get the *New Haven Register*. The less expensive weeklies no longer cover Bethany. Allowing towns to publish such notices on the website will ensure that people have greater access to this information.

I urge your support for this bill, which represents a compromise that will address concerns that some people may not have access to the Internet. By requiring towns to provide a summary in the newspaper and direct people to the town website or town hall for more information, this bill is a positive step forward.

In addition, I support **HB-5055, An Act Eliminating Municipal Mandates**. The bill includes some helpful mandate relief measures, including 1) repealing an annual report to the CT Siting Council regarding information about telecommunications towers that the CT Siting Council already has on its own database; and 2) eliminating the fee that the Department of Motor Vehicles charges municipalities for preventing individuals from registering their cars due to unpaid obligations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of SB-40 and HB-5055. We encourage the committee to continue to explore opportunities to reduce the burden on towns associated with unfunded mandates.